

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2891

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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS KS

SUBJECT: REV. KIM KWWAN-SOK RELEASED FROM PRISON

REF: SEOUL 7145 DTG 120855Z SEP 75

1. REV. KIM KWAN-SOK, GENSEC NCCC-K WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON ON PAROLE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 17. DECISION TO RELEASE KIM APPARENTLY MADE AT HIGH LEVEL AFTER FAMILIES OF KIM AND OTHERS MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO PROSECUTOR AND CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN'S GROUP WENT TO MINISTER OF JUSTICE ON THEIR BEHALF. ONLY KIM WAS RELEASED. REVERENDS PAK, KWON, CHO REMAIN IN DETENTION AND THEIR CASES WILL BE APPEALED BY NCCC-K.

2. RATHER CONFUSED SCENARIO SURROUNDS KIM RELEASE. AFTER NCCC-K DECIDED ON SEPTEMBER 12 TO APPEAL SENTENCES OF KIM AND OTHERS TO HIGHER COURT, IT WAS LEARNED THAT PROSECUTOR DID NOT INTEND TO APPEAL SENTENCE OF KIM BUT WOULD GO AHEAD WITH HIS OWN APPEAL ON THE OTHER THREE. REV. KIM AND THE OTHERS CONSULTED AND IT WAS AGREED THAT KIM, WHO ONLY HAD THREE WEEKS LEFT TO SERVE OF HIS 6 MONTH PRISON SENTENCE, SHOULD DROP HIS APPEAL IN THE

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HOPE OF BEING RELEASED. THIS DECISION WAS CONVEYED TO THE PROSE-

CUTOR THROUGH PRISON OFFICIALS. KIM'S ACTION IN DROPPING HIS APPEAL, TOGETHER WITH REPRESENTATIONS FOR HIS RELEASE, WERE APPARENTLY ENOUGH TO TIP BALANCE IN FAVOR OF HIS RELEASE.

3. CHURCH LEADERS ARE HAPPY THAT KIM RELEASED BUT FULLY AWARE THAT HE MUST ACT WITH GREAT CIRCUMSPECTION. HE WILL BE AVAIL-ABLE FOR CONSULTATION AND ADVICE BUT CANNOT BE ACTIVE ON HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT WITHOUT RISKING A RETURN TO JAIL.

4. REV. KIM IS NOW HOME WITH HIS FAMILY. HE INTENDS TO VISIT NCCCCAK HGS ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 TO GREET NCCC-K OFFICERS AND STAFFERS AND THEN ENTER A HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT OF A CHRONIC BACK AILMENT. KIM'S GENERAL HEALTH IS GOOD.
SNEIDER

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